

Dugan, Brett

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 10:42 AM
To: AirQuality
Subject: Opposition to Reclassification of EPA Level 2 to Level 1

I am greatly concerned about the Kalispell Tribe's proposed EPA reclassification from Level 2 to Level 1 for counties surrounding tribal land. Along with the below reasons, I have a very real concern about the possibility of limiting sanding of rural highways in the winter time. As it is, Hwy 291 from Suncrest to Hwy 231 is given priority level 4 from DOT. Because of the high volume of accidents on this stretch, *more* sanding and deicing is needed, not less. I am concerned that new restrictions will mean less winter maintenance for a stretch of highway that is already very dangerous.

Additionally, I am opposed to the reclassification of counties surrounding the Kalispell Tribe from Level 2 to Level 1 for the following reasons:

- Currently the County sands our roads in the winter. According to the DOE this can still be done but if there are problems with emissions meeting or exceeding the limits then the County must take action to reduce dust into the air (they already sweep either with water or when it rains, which helps eliminate the dust). If the County were to add more dirt roads, then other industries in the area would have to reduce their emissions output. This means increases in pollution controls for our existing businesses. Are these businesses going to stay if they have to make huge investments to keep operating?
- The Tribe's report talks about the Economic Region but that does not reflect Pend Oreille County alone – it uses generalizations which includes Spokane County which is growing. Pend Oreille County needs more businesses with living wages, not just minimum wage jobs. A re-classification can have an impact on Ponderay Newsprint, Vaagen's, Pend Oreille Mines and others that employ the citizens in Pend Oreille County.
- The report also states that there are approximately 400 Kalispel members, one third of which live on the reservation (roughly 133). Of this, 54% are under the age of 18 (72 approximate) which then leaves approximately 61 Kalispel adults making a decision that affects this entire County as well as our neighboring counties and states.
- The County revenues have increased in total 2% since 2012 but expenses have gone up 30%. Without new businesses to help offset this discrepancy we can expect either a reduction in county services and/or an increase in our taxes.

I don't know anyone who doesn't love our area including our water, forests and clean air and we want it to stay that way – the way it is now, which is Class 2. Most of us would love to have our kids grow up, live close, and be able to work in jobs which provide living wages (not minimum wage) and benefits. Without some common sense to this we won't be having new businesses even take a look at our County, and surrounding areas. Who is going to pick up the taxes for services that are needed to maintain law enforcement, medical services, and road department services if we don't increase our business climate and property values? It is going to be those of us who live in the county paying the property taxes. Drive out existing businesses and you will be picking up the cost of power as well.

Thank you,

(b) (6)